

OAPIA E-NEWSLETTER

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Office of Asian & Pacific
Islander Affairs (OAPIA)

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Vietnamese panel testifies to Councilmember Graham on community needs.

OAPIA Council Oversight Hearing

On March 13, the Council Oversight Committee for OAPIA heard testimonies from OAPIA and the API community. OAPIA testified on its unending outreach efforts to stay informed on community needs and concerns, to inform and educate the community about available government services and programs, and to engage API community members in governmental programs and services. During FY03, OAPIA made itself available to the community through outreach to over 1,200 residents and small businesses, 90 visits to community-based organizations and service centers, participation of over 100 community events, case assistance to over 30 community-based organizations and 45 individuals, facilitation of 25 meetings between community members and DC agencies, organization of 9 information workshops to residents on government programs and services, and bilingual assistance at all mayoral events. The success of the outreach was evident from the attendance of 300 people at the Mayor's Town Hall Meeting with the API community in May 2003, and a 10% representation of APIs at the Mayor's Citizen Summit III last November.

Following OAPIA's testimony, a Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and English panel testified on community issues such as affordable housing, government funding for CBOs, bilingual government staff, public safety, and merchant concerns. Simultaneous translation in Mandarin, Vietnamese, and Korean was provided at the hearing.

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Ward 2 Housing and Safety Workshops March 16-18

"Where can I find affordable housing in DC? Is there information available in Chinese? Can our apartments have water sprinklers installed along the hallway as a safety measure in case of fire? Can the fire exit plan be translated into Chinese?"

These are some of the questions and concerns raised by the API residents during the three workshops on housing and safety in Chinatown that was organized by OAPIA, and partnered with the Chinatown Service Center, DC Public Housing, DC Housing and Community Development, and the Fannie Mae Foundation. Approximately 25 residents to participate in the housing workshop and learn about first time home-buying tips, government affordable housing programs, government home purchase assistance programs, and assistance on utility bills.

The safety workshops, attended by about 30 residents, raised issues such as installation of security and monitoring cameras, additional police patrolling, fire drills, and hiring of Chinese speaking staff. "This is good information for us. It is very good that we can participate in this kind of workshops." says a resident of Gibson Plaza. Interpretation into Mandarin and Cantonese was provided by OAPIA staff.

Federal Funding Opportunities

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)/Administration for Children and Families (ACF) announces funds to assist faith-based and community organizations to increase their effectiveness, enhance their ability to provide social services, expand their organizations, diversify their funding sources, and create collaborations to better serve those most in need. Application deadline is May 18. Please call 1-800-281-9519 for details.

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) offers challenge grants to help organizations secure long-term improvements in and support for their humanities programs and resources. Application deadlines are 5/3 and 11/1. Please call (202) 606-8446 for details.

District Funding Opportunities

The Department of Human Services (DHS)/Income Maintenance Administration (IMA) announces funds to organizations that directly assist TANF customers and other low income families and children in the city. Application deadline is 4/30. A Pre-Application Conference will be held on 4/9 at 10am-noon, at the DHS/IMA, 645 H Street, NE, 5th floor Conference Room. Please call (202) 279-6236 for details.

The District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS)/State Education Agency (SEA) announces funding to increase the academic achievement of students in mathematics and science by enhancing the content knowledge and teaching skills of classroom teachers. Application deadline is 5/3. Applicants must attend a Pre-Application Conference on 4/13 at 10am-noon, Logan Training Center, 215 G Street, NE, Room 114. Please call (202) 641-5766 for details.

Foundation Funding Opportunities

Target Inc. stores are accepting proposals for grants that focus on the arts, early childhood reading, and family violence prevention. Target provides funding for parenting education, crisis nurseries, family counseling and after-school programs. Please visit http://target.com/target_group/community_giving/index.jhtml.

The Herb Block Foundation announces funds for anti-discrimination, civic involvement and post-secondary scholarships. Organizations are required to submit a letter of inquiry due June 21, followed by submission of a full proposal.

Some of the information above is excerpted from Funding Alert, a free service of the Office of Partnerships and Grants Development. Email fundingalert@dc.gov to be added to the list or visit http://opgd.dc.gov/services/grant/funding_alerts/index.shtm for archives.

EMPLOYMENT/INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Viet Nam Assistance for the Handicapped (VNAH) is recruiting for an Assistant Project Director to operate and manage the USAID-funded project on disability policy reform at its Hanoi office. Application deadline is April 15. Please email vnah1@aol.com for details.

The DC Department of Parks and Recreation has several paid, summer employment positions available including lifeguards, water safety instructors, and summer camp directors and counselors. Please visit www.dpr.dc.gov.

The Environmental Protection Agency is seeking full-time, entry-level applicants for its professional development program. Applications must be postmarked during the period of March 29 - April 9. Please visit www.epa.gov/ezhire or call (202)564-7576 for details.

Asian American LEAD is recruiting for a Capital Campaign Associate to manage the capital campaign and public relations. Please visit www.aalead.org for more information.

NAVASA is seeking a Development Associate to provide technical assistance and resources development. Please visit www.navasa.org for more information.

The Wildlife Conservation Society is recruiting for the positions of Director and Assistant Director for its Asia Program. Application deadline is April 30. Please email ebennett@wcs.org for information.

The DC Office of Administrative Hearings is hiring a Program Assistant / Docket Clerk. Please fax, mail, or e-mail a resume, unofficial transcript, and writing sample to: Diana Arrington Office of Administrative Hearings 1401 H Street, NW – Suite 1040 Washington, DC 20002-4210; Fax: (202) 727-8740 E-mail: Diana.Arrington@dc.gov.

Community Calendar

4/25: The National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium Community Partners Conference. Please call (202) 296-2300 ext. 2318 for info.

4/25: NAPA-WF-DC March for Women's Lives. Please contact amycwang@wam.umd.edu for info.

5/10: Vietnamese American National Gala. Please visit www.vangusa.com.

5/20-5/22: The 5th Annual National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development Convention in California. Please visit www.nationalcapacd.org for details.

5/23-5/25: The Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum. Please call (202)466-7772 for details.

6/21-6/25: Summer Institute on Equity in Education in Minnesota. Deadline to register is 6/1/04. Please visit <http://igs.cla.umn.edu/outreach/si.htm> for info.

7/5: Taiwanese American Conference at U of Delaware. Please visit www.tacec.org/tang/index.html for info.

If you have any questions or would like to include information about your organization's program in our newsletter, please contact Lisa Nguyen at (202) 727-3120 or email lisa.nguyen@dc.gov.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Conference on Asian Pacific American Leadership (CAPAL) announces scholarships to outstanding Asian Pacific American college undergraduates and graduates. Please call (877)892-5427 for details.

The Organization of Chinese Americans announces National Essay Contest for high school students. The topic for this year is "With the changing demographics in the U.S., how do you see your community contributing to U.S. society in the next 20 years?" Prizes for first, second and third place are \$1000, \$500, and \$300, respectively. Entry deadline is May 1. Visit www.ocanatl.org for details.

The Organization of Chinese Americans announces the 2004 OCA-SYSCO Scholarship to be awarded to six financially disadvantaged Asian Pacific American high school seniors to enter college this fall. Application deadline is May 1. Please visit www.ocanatl.org for details.

The Media Action Network for Asian Americans announces \$1000 scholarships for Asian Pacific American college and graduate students to pursue careers in filmmaking and television production (not broadcast journalism). Application deadline is June 1. Please visit www.manaa.org for details.

OAPIA Upcoming Events...

Housing and Safety Workshop – April 21 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Invited guest speaker from the Fannie Mae Foundation, a nonprofit devoted to affordable housing and the revitalization of communities, along with the DC Housing and Community Development and the DC Housing Authority will provide residents in Ward 1 information on basic home buying tips, government home purchase assistance program, and government housing choice voucher program. Vietnamese interpretation will be provided. Location: TBA.

The Mayor's Asian Heritage Month Celebrations in May

OAPIA will celebrate Asian Heritage throughout the month of May. A photo exhibition featuring the theme "Volunteerism in the API Community" will be on display at the Martin Luther King Jr. Library throughout May.

On May 27th, OAPIA will host a cultural fair featuring Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs embassies, ethnic food, and cultural performances by the community. During the celebration, the Mayor will present Community Service Award recipients to youth, community members, and DC government employees who made an extraordinary contribution to the API community. Please come out and join the festivities!

For additional information on any of the events, please contact OAPIA at (202) 727-3120.

Asian Pacific Heritage Community Celebrations

(George Mason University)

April 3: Filipino Cultural Night presented by the Filipino Cultural Association at GMU each year featuring Filipino American culture, history of the Philippines, dialogue about issues, and folk and modern dances. 7:00 pm, Harris Theatre.

April 7: "Sweet Treats from JADES" Come and indulge in unique desserts inspired by Asian Pacific Island cultures. 12 pm – 4 pm, Johnson Center, Kiosk.

April 7: "Spins: Does Racism Exist against APAs?" presented by Dr. John Cheng. 4:30 pm, Johnson Center, Assembly Room D.

April 9: "Sweatshop Warriors: Immigrant Women Workers Take on the Global Factory" presented by Miriam Qing Yoon Louie. 12 pm, Johnson Center, Cinema.

April 10: Cultural Dance Showcase – Hawaii, Asian Indian, Chinese Taiji, Bangladesh, and Korean dance performance. 7:30 pm, Johnson Center, Dewberry Hall.

April 11: Cultural Bazaar (Mehla) by Pakistan Student Association featuring the Pakistan culture through food, fashion, music, and much more. 3 pm, Johnson Center, Bistro.

April 15: Tea Hour/Roundtable Discussion presenting panel of APA students, faculty, and staff on campus experiences, views of classroom climate, and unique concerns of APA students. 3:30 pm, SUB I Room C.

April 22: NCBI: Prejudice Reduction Workshop that trains participants to heal the emotional and institutional impact of discrimination, and remove the hurt, misinformation, and powerlessness. 4:30 pm, SUB I, Room A.

More OAPIA Pictures...

OAPIA Council Oversight Hearing



Councilmember Graham, Chair of the Subcommittee and staff.



Director of Chinatown Service Center, John Lem and staff.

OAPIA Housing and Safety Workshops



Housing Workshop on March 16 at Chinatown Service Center.



Safety Workshop on March 17 at Museum Square.



Safety Workshop on March 18 at Gibson Plaza.